

Message Text

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44

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-03 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 RSC-01 L-02

SAM-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-05 NSAE-00 PA-01 PRS-01

/049 W

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R 111535Z NOV 74

FM AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1158

INFO USIA WASHDC

AMCONSUL ZAGREB

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR YO

SUBJ: PRESS COMMENTARY ON SECRETARY'S TRAVELS

1. BELGRADE DAILY POLITIKA NOV 10 PLACES SECRETARY'S BELGRADE STOP IN BIGGER DIPLOMATIC PICTURE, TREATING VISIT TO YUGOSLAVIA AS ONE OF SEVERAL IMPORTANT VISITS SECRETARY MADE IN TOUR JUST COMPLETED. EDIT AMITES THAT SECRETARY'S CONVERSATIONS WITH TITO AND OTHER YUGOSLAV "STATESMEN" CAPTURED WORLD ATTENTION. IT IDENTIFIES THREE MAIN ELEMENTS OF VISIT AS MUTUAL REINFORCEMENT OF CONDUCT OF BILATERAL RELATIONS ON BASIS OF INDEPENDENCE AND EQUALITY, SECRETARY'S EXPRESSED RECOGNITION AND INTEREST IN INTERNATIONAL ROLE PLAYED BY NON-ALIGNED, AND HIS "SINCERE INTEREST" IN EXCHANGING VIEWS ON CYPRUS WITH TITO.

2. ARTICLE IN WEEKLY EKONOMSKA POLITIKA OF NOV 11 ENTITLED "GLOBETROTTER NO. 1" SIMILARLY TREATS SECRETARY'S VISIT TO BELGRADE AS PART OF BIG PICTURE. AFTER RECOUNTING HISTORY OF SECRETARY'S PREVIOUS SUCCESSFUL TRIPS AS TRAVELING STATESMAN, IT WRITES THAT CENTRAL THEME OF TALKS WITH TITO WAS MIDDLE EAST CRISIS, IN WHICH SECRETARY WAS INFORMED OF DEEP YUGOSLAV INTEREST IN LATING MIDDLE EAST SETTLEMENT "SO THAT US CAN PLAY AN IMPORTANT ROLE IN IT." EDIT DESCRIBES OTHER STOPS ON CURRENT TRIP, THEN CONCLUDES

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BY NOTING THAT US HAS SPECIAL RESPONSIBILITY IN WORLD BECAUSE OF

ITS STRENGTH BUT THIS FACT HAS UNFORTUNATELY NOT BEEN SUFFICIENTLY EMPHASIZED.

3. COMMENT: SINCE TITO, FOLLOWING MEETING WITH SECRETARY, PUBLICLY RECONGIZED SPECIAL US ROLE IN SEARCH FOR MIDDLE EAST SOLUTION, WE HAVE NOTED CHANGE AND MORE FAVORABLE TONE OF MEDIA COMMENTARY ABOUT US POLICY AND ACTIVITIES IN MEDITERRANEAN AND MIDDLE EAST.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, MINISTERIAL VISITS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 11 NOV 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: cunninfx
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974BELGRA05677
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740324-0643
From: BELGRADE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19741155/aaaabuig.tel
Line Count: 69
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: cunninfx
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 03 JUL 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <03 JUL 2002 by boyleja>; APPROVED <14 MAR 2003 by cunninfx>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PRESS COMMENTARY ON SECRETARY'S TRAVELS
TAGS: PFOR, YO, (KISSINGER, HENRY A)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005